

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
)
Plaintiff,) Case No. 1:06-cr-146
)
v.) Honorable Robert Holmes Bell
)
ROBERT ALAN MERRITT,)
)
Defendant.)
)

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

Pursuant to W.D. MICH. L.C.R.R. 11.1, I conducted a plea hearing in the captioned case on August 21, 2006, after receiving the written consent of defendant and all counsel. At the hearing, defendant Robert Alan Merritt entered a plea of guilty to count 1 of the Superseding Information charging him with conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 846, 841(a), in exchange for the undertakings made by the government in the written plea agreement. On the basis of the record made at the hearing, I find that defendant is fully capable and competent to enter an informed plea; that the plea is made knowingly and with full understanding of each of the rights waived by defendant; that it is made voluntarily and free from any force, threats, or promises, apart from the promises in the plea agreement; that the defendant understands the nature of the charge and penalties provided by law; and that the plea has a sufficient basis in fact.

I therefore recommend that defendant's plea of guilty to count 1 of the Superseding Information be accepted, that the court adjudicate defendant guilty of the charge, and that the written plea agreement be considered for acceptance at the time of sentencing. Acceptance of the plea, adjudication of guilt, acceptance of the plea agreement, and imposition of sentence are specifically reserved for the district judge.

The Clerk is directed to procure a transcript of the plea hearing for review by the District Judge.

Dated: August 21, 2006

/s/ Joseph G. Scoville
U.S. Magistrate Judge

NOTICE TO PARTIES

You have the right to de novo review of the foregoing findings by the district judge. Any application for review must be in writing, must specify the portions of the findings or proceedings objected to, and must be filed and served no later than ten days after the plea hearing. *See W.D. Mich. L.C.R.R. 11.1(d).* A failure to file timely objections may result in the waiver of any further right to seek appellate review of the plea-taking procedure. *See Thomas v. Arn, 474 U.S. 140 (1985); Neuman v. Rivers, 125 F.3d 315, 322-23 (6th Cir.), cert. denied, 522 U.S. 1030 (1997); United States v. Walters, 638 F.2d 947 (6th Cir. 1981).*